

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Notice To File Corrected Application Papers dated August 18, 2004 requested correction to the Brief Description of the Drawing section of the specification. Specifically, the description of Figure 3 was objected to for failing to include a description of Figures 3(C-E), and the description of Figure 9 was objected to for failing to include a description of Figure 9(C).

In response, Applicants submit the enclosed amendments to the description of Figures 3 and 9.

The description of Figure 3 has been amended in that a description of Figures 3(C-E) has been added. The text is taken from the description of the corresponding Figures (3B, 2B, and 1E, respectively) from U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/102,647, filed October 1, 1998. Since that provisional application is incorporated by reference in its entirety into the instant application, the addition of text from that application does not add any impermissible new matter. The first line of the description for Figure 3 has also been deleted, because the experiments depicted in Figures 3(C-E) were not limited to Ret^{-/-} DRG neurons.

The description of Figure 9 has been amended to indicate that the figure contains three parts, A-C, instead of just two parts, A-B. Although the sub-headings in the description have been deleted, the descriptive portion of the text is unchanged, because the original text accurately described the schematic representation of the Ret-independent GDNC-evoked signaling pathway shown in the Figures 9(A-C).

Applicants believe that the amendments to the specification completely resolve the issues raised in the Notice to File Corrected Application Papers. However, if there are any unresolved issues with regard to this application, the favor of a telephone call to Applicants'

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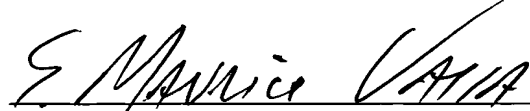
PATENT

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undersigned representative is requested respectfully. If no further issues remain, Applicants request notification of an anticipated Issue Date for this application.

Date: September 16, 2004


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